

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 04327 210821Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 CU-02 /067 W
-----012222 211033Z /20

R 201630Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4801
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 4327

BELGRADE FOR CSCE

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, DA
SUBJ: DANES EXPELLED FROM SOVIET UNION FOR DISTRIBUTING
SMUGGLED BIBLES

1. THE EXPULSION FROM THE SOVIET UNION JULY 12 OF TWO DAN-
ISH WOMEN FOR DISTRIBUTING BIBLES PRINTED IN RUSSIAN HAS
ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE DANISH PRESS. ACCORDING TO
REPORTS, THE WOMEN, TRAVELING IN AN ORDINARY CAR WITH A
CAMPING TRAILER, ENTERED THE SOVIET UNION FROM POLAND. AFTER
DISTRIBUTING ABOUT 200 OF THE 700 BIBLES THEY SMUGGLED INTO
THE USSR, THEY WERE APPREHENDED AND ASKED TO LEAVE. THEY
DID SO VIA THE BORDER WITH ROMANIA WHERE THE VEHICLE AND
TRAILER WERE CONFISCATED BY THE "KGB".

2. AT THE REQUEST OF "EUROPE MISSION" (A RELIGIOUS ORGAN-
IZATION) UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES THE WOMEN TRAVELED, THE DAN-
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ISH FOREIGN OFFICE INITIATED INQUIRIES WITH THE DANISH
EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AND NOW IS TRYING TO OBTAIN THE RETURN OF
THE AUTO. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT, WE ARE TOLD, DOES NOT IN-
TEND TO PRESS THE MATTER WITH THE SOVIETS AND WILL REQUEST
RETURN OF THE AUTO ONLY, LEAVING CAMPER TRAILER OUT OF RE-
QUEST BECAUSE IT WAS ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED FOR THE SMUG-
GLING EXERCISE. BOTH VEHICLES ARE REGISTERED IN TH NAME OF

A PRIVATE DANISH CITIZEN RESIDING IN JUTLAND. "EUROPE MISSION" HAS DECLARED ITSELF READY TO PAY THE FINES, IF ANY, WHICH MAY BE LEVIED BY THE USSR IN CONNECTION WITH THE INCIDENT.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE, THE DANISH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAS POINTED OUT THE PROSELYTIZING, IN ITSELF, IS NOT A CRIME IN THE SOVIET UNION. BUT SMUGGLING OF BIBLES OR OTHER PRINTED MATERIALS INTO THE USSR IS ILLEGAL. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS ON THIS BASIS THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES TOOK ACTION AGAINST THE TWO DANES.

5. WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS ACTIVITY IS PART OF A WELL-ORGANIZED EFFORT BY EUROPEAN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO INTRODUCE BIBLES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS MATERIAL INTO THE SOVIET UNION. ABOUT TEN SUCH TRIPS, UNDER TOURIST COVER, HAVE TAKEN PLACE THIS YEAR. THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR HERE TOLD OUR SOURCE THAT TWO SWEDES WERE PRESENTLY BEING HELD IN THE USSR FOR THE SAME ACTIVITY.

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